

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE.

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In re Application of:

Rickey D. Hart et al.

APR 1 6 2003

Serial No.:

09/875,588

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Filing Date:

06/06/2001

For:

SURGICAL FASTENING SYSTEM

AND METHOD FOR USING THE SAME

Group Art Unit:

3731

Examiner:

Julian W. Woo

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL, POSTAGE PREPAID, IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: ASSISTANT

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April 2, 2003

(DATE OF DEPOSIT)

Assistant Commissioner For Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

James A. Sheridan

(NAME OF ATTORNEY)

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April 2, 2003

Sir:

(DATE OF SIGNATURE)

RESPONSE

This is in response to the Official Action currently outstanding with respect to the above-identified patent application.